

## National Republican

W. J. MURTAGH, Editor and Proprietor.

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THE NATIONAL REPUBLICAN HAS A LARGER CIRCULATION THAN ANY OTHER MORNING PAPER IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

MONDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 22, 1875.

PINCBACK'S chances are improving.

THE ACT OF JULY, 1873, which provided that unexpended appropriations shall be covered into the Treasury, should be repealed at the present session of Congress.

OUTLAW REID feels safe. The rigorous execution of the law in New York City for the prevention of cruelty to animals has resulted in the imprisonment of an individual who killed a cat.

THE CITY OF Peking sailed on Saturday from San Francisco for Hong Kong, carrying a number of first-class passengers, English and American, together with twenty-four bags of mail matter. The Tokio has arrived at Panama en route for San Francisco, having made one of the best passages on record, forty-two days out from New York. A special agent of the Pacific Mail Company, who will be in charge of the Tokio, says that the details of the departure of the Peking.

SUPPOSE the contract between the Government and the Pacific Mail Company should be abrogated, and the consequent depreciation of the stock place within the power of an English company to buy up the line, as has been seriously proposed in London, we would not have a single ship of fitting capacity to use as a transport in carrying troops, and the same English company would be apt to teach us a lesson in the way of charges for carrying the mails, which would make us regret the hasty, ill-considered action of the House of Representatives.

IT IS NOW understood that the Democrats in the Senate have agreed to make a determined fight against the passage of any treaty which would give to the Pacific Mail Company the result of Republican caucus agreements. In plainer words, they will attempt to defeat, by the customary methods of prolonged discussion, all legislation intended to restore the rights and privileges of citizenship to the Republicans of the South.

IT IS TO BE hoped that the Republican members of that body will be prepared to meet the physical endurance of their opponents to the severest test. It is their duty to exhaust every resource in efforts to secure the passage of remedial measures. The country expects it of them, and will be disappointed if that expectation is not realized.

WHAT has become of Hon. J. Marshall Hagan's resolution for the recognition of belligerent rights to the struggling Cubans? Will the Foreign Relations Committee not make some report upon the subject? In an eloquent speech upon this subject in the House, February 18, Mr. Hagan said that "the wrongs of the Cuban patriots had more warrant in fact, more warrant in general law and natural right, for their attitude against Spanish domination than the American people had when they declared almost a century ago that they were, and of right ought to be, free and independent States." He then declared that the Spanish policy of cruelty, barbarity and slavery which has ever characterized the treatment of her colonies by the mother country from the earliest time of her American settlements. Closing, he said: "I appeal to this Congress to place itself in full accord with this American sentiment."

"The organized cruelty of Spanish rule is a crime against the age, and its bitter malice is only exceeded by its 'hideous monstrosities. We owe it to the past, it is the duty of the present, and the future will ascribe it to our highest honor, to accord the rights acknowledged by the common laws of modern warfare to the Cuban revolutionists."

THE REPUBLICAN OPPORTUNITY—THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SOUTH.

This week will afford an opportunity for Congress to act upon measures more directly connected with our material interests and general prosperity than any that have been considered during the present session. Allusion is made to the opening of the mouth of the Mississippi and building a great highway from that river to the Pacific ocean. The first of these measures passed the House without a division, and involves the ultimate expenditure of \$5,000,000, a sum far less than will be saved to the commerce of the country every year by opening the mouth of the river to the ships of the world. The latter measure asks not a dollar in appropriation or subsidy, but simply asks a recognition or indorsement which will enable the company to secure the funds with which to prosecute the work.

For the guarantee of interest on its bonds the Government is simply and completely secured against loss by the indorsement of the Senate, and in the words of the New York memorial, we believe that "the highest considerations of a national, political and commercial nature demand that 'American steamships shall not be withdrawn from the Pacific ocean.'"

THE TAX ON SPIRITS.

Western members of Congress are making strenuous opposition to the proposed increase of tax upon spirits. In this course we think they are unnecessarily earnest. It is estimated about thirty per cent. of the manufactured article is used for scientific and manufacturing purposes, and seventy per cent. is consumed as a beverage in one shape or another. But we are aware that a very large proportion of the alcohol and French spirits which are nominally used in the interest of science and philosophy, and for compounding medicines and remedies of various kinds, find their way into bitters, wines and elixirs, &c. Distilled spirits must be denominated a superfluity, not a necessity. Did I express the opinion that opium, hashish, morphine and the like, but milder in poisonous effect, which are used for the purpose of making drafts upon the future, and thus aiding in the enjoyment of a fast life. They cannot be classed as necessities. These spirits have borne a quotation during the past three years in our wholesale markets, upon the average of about one dollar per gallon. This price includes taxes of seventy cents upon each gallon of proof spirits or spirits under proof. The retailer, or rectifier, or compounder takes these spirits and adds say twenty-five per cent. water, and certain oils, colorings, and flavorings, all of them inexpensive but designed to "age" the spirits, that is, mellow them, and they are finally sold to gentlemen over a first-class bar at fifteen cents a drink, which amounts to including the water and compounding, to something over thirty dollars per gallon.

Now, it is not supremely folly to say that a luxury so highly esteemed by the American people that they will pay twelve or fifteen dollars more per barrel upon the article when they take out a barrel and put it upon the market. And this can be obtained by putting it into smaller lots and with greater frequency. This outcry against the proposed increase of tax upon whisky is simply ridiculous when the subject is analyzed and viewed in its proper light.

## THE LOUISIANA POLICY.

We have frequently taken the Louisiana policy of the Administration meets with the disapproval of the people at large that we have taken the trouble to examine the files of our exchanges to ascertain the tone of public sentiment as reflected by the opinions expressed in the columns of the Republican press of the country. Among those newspapers in whose columns we find an unqualified approval of the Louisiana affairs are the following:

St. Louis Daily Globe, Mo.  
St. Louis Democrat, Mo.  
Pittsburgh Gazette, Pa.  
Pittsburgh Commercial, Pa.  
The Press, Philadelphia, Pa.  
Evening Telegraph, Philadelphia, Pa.  
The Gazette, Pittsburg, Pa.  
Chicago Evening Journal, Ill.  
Chicago Inter-Ocean, Ill.  
Waikanae Weekly Gazette, Ill.  
Baltimore Union County, Townsboro, Md.  
Brooklyn Union, N. Y.  
Buffalo Commercial Advertiser, N. Y.  
Buffalo Express, N. Y.  
New York Times, N. Y.  
New York Commercial Advertiser, N. Y.  
The Press, Albany, N. Y.  
Orange County Press, Middletown, N. Y.  
The Daily Scraper, N. Y.  
Daily State Gazette, Trenton, N. J.  
West Jersey Press, Camden, N. J.  
Worcester Spy, Mass.  
Haverhill Gazette, Mass.  
The Commonwealth, Boston, Mass.  
Boston Journal, Mass.  
San Francisco Chronicle, Cal.  
Spirit of the West, San Francisco, Cal.  
Cincinnati Daily Gazette, Ohio.  
Daily Ohio State Journal, Columbus, Ohio.  
Toledo Blade, Ohio.  
Daily Courier, Lafayette, Ind.  
Kansas City Journal, Mo.  
New Orleans Republican, La.  
Territorial Enterprise, Virginia City, Nevada.  
Sentinel and Republican, Millington, Pa.  
The Era, Raleigh, N. C.  
The New Hampshire Patriot, N. H.  
Norwich Bulletin, Conn.  
Providence Journal, R. I.  
The State Sentinel, Dover, Del.  
Allegan Journal, Mich.  
The Graphic, N. Y.  
New North State, N. C.  
Madison State, Wis.  
San Antonio Express, Texas.  
Kansas City Journal of Commerce, Mo.  
Troy Times, N. Y.  
Syracuse Journal, N. Y.  
Little Rock Republican, Ark.  
State Journal, Montgomery, Ala., and many others.

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## THE NATIONAL POLICY OF THE NATIONAL REPUBLICAN.

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SIR: With all earnestness I bid you God-speed in the good work you are doing in behalf of peace and safety in our country; and I believe that I do not express the feeling of the great body of Republicans in this country when I say that the Southern policy advocated by you is the only policy that can bring any peace or safety to this country. The spirit of that policy is the spirit which the Republican party has gained all that it has gained, and which it is now so anxious to maintain. It is the spirit of prompt and determined aggression against any molestation of the natural rights of the citizen to live, to think and to express his views in any part of this country. In so far as the party has been put in an attitude of hostility by that apostate organ and by timid men whom the party has put in high positions, it has lost strength; and if it continues by such leadership to fail of what it has pledged, it will utterly perish, and the timid and trembling leaders who have established its meaning will be underneath. Men who were expected to lead in taking the responsibility—why should they be selected for that—have stood trembling before the great body of the party, and now, in the most vigorous assertion of the principles deemed vital to us as a nation, they shrink the more, and look longingly to the next Congress, and even beg to suggest (some of them) the idea of permitting the next Congress to do for us what they have failed to do for us.

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